

Marked Up Version of Amended Claims

30. (Amended) A method of conveying an email message including an address field [in which an account name portion of the address is] containing a descriptor of an intended recipient of the email message, the descriptor being [and which is] different from [the] an email account name of the intended recipient, the method comprising:

[searching in] sending a database query to a database of [descriptors] identifying elements associated with the intended recipient and email addresses to search for the email address associated with [a] the descriptor [associated with an email message], wherein said descriptor is a combination of one or more of the identifying elements [associated with the intended recipient of said email message]; and

transmitting said email message to said email address found during said search of the email addresses [searching of said database] if [an] a unique email address is located [where a prescribed threshold of a match between the descriptor of said email message and descriptors within said database is exceeded].

31. (Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein said descriptor includes one or more identifying elements [is] selected from a list including a telephone number associated with said intended recipient, a business name associated with said intended recipient, a personal name associated with said intended recipient, and a part of a street address associated with said intended recipient.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 41, [wherein an advice is forwarded] further comprising forwarding an advice to the sender or recipient of said email message who is a registered user of said method that the information has been forwarded to the unregistered user of said method.

47. (Amended) A method for handling undeliverable electronic mail, comprising:

receiving an email message including an invalid destination address that includes a descriptor;

sending a database query to [searching] a database to search for records partially or completely matching parts of said invalid destination address; and

forwarding said email message to a valid unique email address retrieved from said database according to the result of said [searching] search for records[, if a prescribed threshold of match between said invalid destination address and valid email address is exceeded].

64. (Amended) A method of conveying an email message comprising:

receiving an email message forwarded by a sender, said email message including an invalid destination address that includes a descriptor;

sending a database query to [searching] a database to search for records partially or completely matching parts of said invalid destination address; and

sending a notification message to the sender of said email message, said notification message advising the sender of the results of said database search.

81. (Amended) A method of conveying an email message comprising:

receiving an email message from its sender, said email message including an address field [in which an account name portion of the address field is] containing a descriptor of the intended recipient of said email message and which is different from [a correct] an email account name of said intended recipient, [wherein] the descriptor being a combination of one or more identifying elements associated with the intended recipient;

sending a database query to [locating in] a database of the one or more identifying elements [descriptors] and email addresses to locate a unique [the] email address associated with said descriptor; and

forwarding the message to the email address yielded by the database.

99. (Amended) A method of determining an email address comprising:

[providing] maintaining a database where email addresses are linked with [descriptors] identifying elements relevant for a person at each email address so that a user can provide one or more of the [descriptors] identifying elements;

wherein upon recognition by a server that information given in an address field of the email address is insufficient or not in the correct form for delivery; and

[enabling] a search [to be] is conducted of the database to determine a relevant email address, the [descriptors] identifying elements including at least one of a given name, surname, address, name of business, and/or telephone number[;]

[adapting a server to recognize that information given in an account name portion of the email address is insufficient or not in the correct form for delivery; and]

[passing a necessary message to an operator of the database which locates the correct or complete address, and forwards the necessary message].

102. (Amended) The method of claim 99, wherein [the operator of said database passes] said correct or complete email address is passed from the database back to the server to enable it to send said necessary message.